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COVER A  
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# ROM vs. TRANSFORMERS

## SHINING ARMOR



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## SHINING ARMOR

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**THE GRAY AREA.  
BETWEEN SOLSTAR ORDER  
AND GALACTIC COUNCIL SPACE.**

MAYDAY!  
WE'RE UNDER  
ATTACK!

SOMEBODY  
OUT THERE  
HELP US!

NOBODY'S  
LISTENING.  
JUST KEEP  
STEADY.

ARE YOU  
OUT OF YOUR  
NEOCORTEX?

THOSE  
BLASTS ARE  
GETTING TOO  
CLOSE FOR  
"STEADY"!

WHERE DID YOU  
LEARN TO AIM,  
HELMSMAN?

FINISH OFF THE  
CYBERTRONIAN  
SHIP!

TRYING,  
SIR. THEY'RE  
SLIPPERY.

OH,  
PRIMUS!

WE'RE  
GOING  
DOWN!

WE CAN  
STILL—

EXCELLENT  
SHOT.

YOUR  
MARKSMAN-  
SHIP DESERVES  
COMMENDA-  
TION.

UH, SIR.

THERE'S  
A SMALL  
PROBLEM.

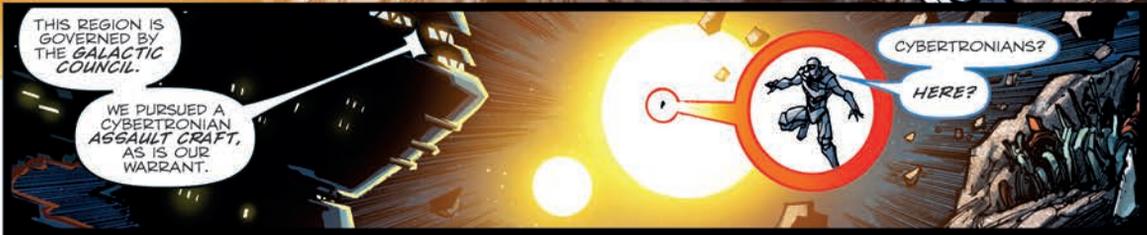


I AM ROM,  
THE SPACE  
KNIGHT—

—AND I  
WITNESSED YOU  
SHOOT DOWN  
A VESSEL WITHIN  
THE SOVEREIGN  
TERRITORY OF  
THE SOLSTAR  
ORDER.

PREPARE TO BE  
BOARDED FOR  
QUESTIONING.

AND SHUT  
DOWN YOUR  
WEAPON  
SYSTEMS...  
FOR YOUR OWN  
SAFETY.



THIS REGION IS  
GOVERNED BY  
THE GALACTIC  
COUNCIL.

WE PURSUED A  
CYBERTRONIAN  
ASSAULT CRAFT,  
AS IS OUR  
WARRANT.

CYBERTRONIANS?

HERE?



INDEED.

YOU ARE DEALING  
WITH FORCES OVER  
WHICH YOU HAVE NO  
UNDERSTANDING—OR  
JURISDICTION.

I HAVE EVERY  
RIGHT TO PATROL  
OUR BORDER AND  
DETERMINE IF YOUR  
ACTIONS THREATEN  
SOLSTAR  
INTERESTS.

WILL YOU  
GRANT ME  
ENTRANCE TO  
YOUR SHIP—OR  
SHALL I MAKE  
MY OWN  
DOOR?



MUTE TRANSMISSION.

SIR—IF THE  
STORIES OF THE  
KNIGHTS  
ARE TO BE  
BELIEVED—

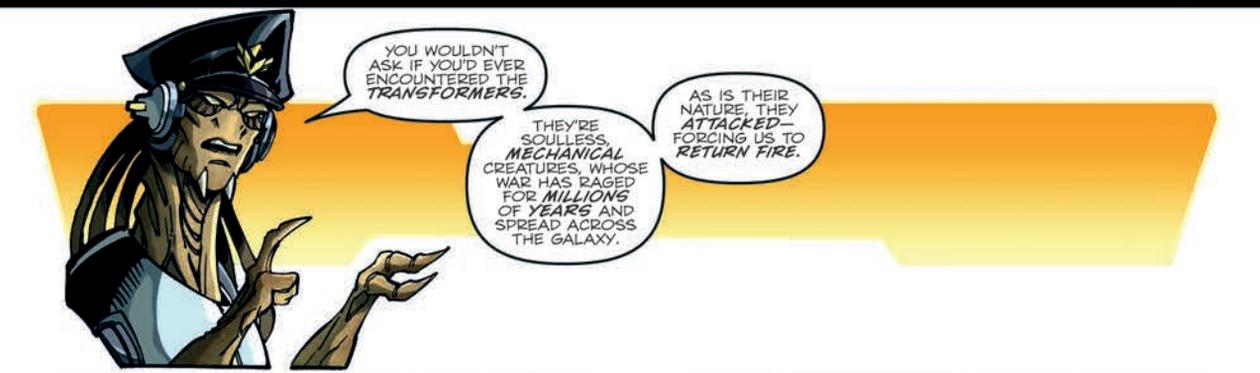
THAT THING  
WOULDN'T LAST  
TWO MINUTES  
AGAINST US... BUT  
I'M IN NO MOOD  
TO START A  
WAR.

INPUT  
COORDINATES  
FOR THE SHADOW  
SYSTEM. PREPARE  
TO WARD ON MY  
COMMAND.



MY PATIENCE WEARS THIN.

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR CONFLICT WITH THESE CYBERTRONIANS?



YOU WOULDN'T ASK IF YOU'D EVER ENCOUNTERED THE TRANSFORMERS.

THEY'RE SOULLESS, MECHANICAL CREATURES, WHOSE WAR HAS RAGED FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS AND SPREAD ACROSS THE GALAXY.

AS IS THEIR NATURE, THEY ATTACK—FORCING US TO RETURN FIRE.



I SAW NO AGGRESSIVE ACT FROM THEM. THEY FLED. YOU PURSUED AND—

PING



SOMETHING'S ALIVE IN THE WRECKAGE!



NOW, WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED.

GET US OUT OF HERE!



COWARDS. BUT THEY ARE A MATTER FOR OUR DIPLOMATS NOW. THE SURVIVOR MUST COME FIRST.

ATTENTION, SHIP. I AM ROM OF THE SOLSTAR ORDER, TRANSMITTING ACROSS ALL KNOWN FREQUENCIES.

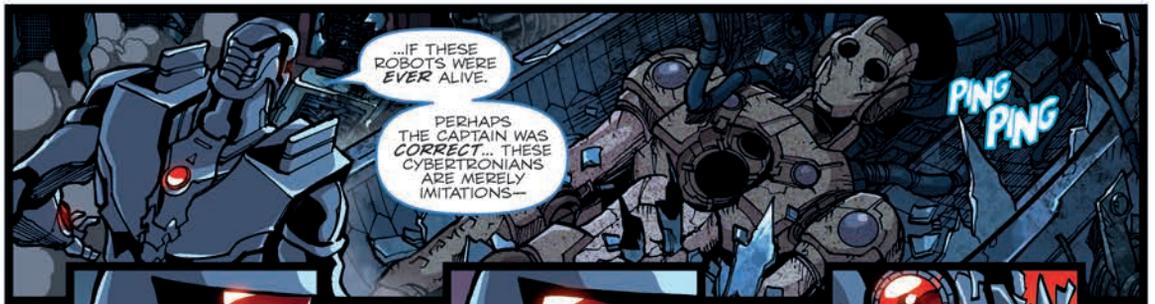
DO YOU HEAR ME?



ANYONE?



NO, NOTHING  
HERE LIVES...



...IF THESE  
ROBOTS WERE  
EVER ALIVE.

PERHAPS  
THE CAPTAIN WAS  
CORRECT... THESE  
CYBERTRONIAN'S  
ARE MERELY  
IMITATIONS—

PING  
PING



-OF-



-LIFE.



PING



DO NOT MOVE,  
CYBERTRONIAN.

PING  
PING  
PIEL  
PIEL  
HELP



YOU DO  
LIVE!



IN THAT  
EVENT...

...IT IS  
MY SWORN  
DUTY TO DO  
ALL I CAN  
TO HELP  
YOU.

AND THAT  
WAS THE DAY  
I WAS BORN.



MY CHILDHOOD WAS...  
**UNUSUAL**, I GUESS  
YOU COULD SAY.



I WAS STILL **SOLIDIFYING**  
WHEN THE SOLSTAR  
DOCTORS WENT TO WORK.



I HEARD LATER  
THEY ONLY DID  
IT AT **ROM'S**  
INSISTENCE.  
MY SAVIOR.



BUT BACK THEN,  
I WAS JUST A  
**KID**. I HAD TO  
LEARN TO TALK,  
AND INTERACT  
WITH PEOPLE.



ROM BROUGHT SOME  
GLOWING **FUEL** FROM  
THE SHIP'S LIFE  
SUPPORT SYSTEM,  
AND THE SOLSTAR  
SCIENTISTS SET OUT  
TO **SYNTHESIZE** IT.



BY MY **FIFTH**  
SOLAR CYCLE,  
I WAS  
**CONSIDERABLY**  
BIGGER THAN  
MY CLASSMATES.



AND I COULD  
CHANGE INTO  
A CAR.



IT FELT NATURAL TO  
ME, BUT IT SORT OF  
**FREAKED THEM OUT**.

THEY STARTED CALLING ME  
**STARDRIVE**, BUT THAT WAS  
ACTUALLY BETTER THAN  
**GRAY AREA ANOMALY**.



MY TEACHER TOLD ME  
WHAT THE **SOLSTAR**  
ORDER KNEW ABOUT  
**CYBERTRONIANS**—

—WHICH IS TO SAY, THEY'RE  
A RACE OF **GENOCIDAL**  
**MECHANICAL MONSTERS**.

YOU'RE  
**LUCKY**, MY  
DEAR.

WITH A PROPER  
**SOLSTAR**  
UPBRINGING YOU  
CAN **OVERCOME**  
YOUR HERITAGE.



AND IF YOU  
PUT IN ENOUGH  
**WORK**, PERHAPS  
YOU CAN BE ONE  
OF **US** SOMEDAY.